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United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Administration
Bureau of Animal Industry

February 7, 1947

*********SUPPLEMENT NO. I **********

TO

SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS

in the

MEXICAN OUTBREAK OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

With Supplementary Information
on United States Cooperation
in Control Measures

(Prepared January 28, 1947)

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Note: This report has been prepared on the basis of best available information but is subject to revision and amplification as new facts are obtained. Additional supplemental reports will be issued as significant developments occur.

Mexican-United States Agricultural Commission Approves Recommendations for Control of Outbreak

The Mexican-United States Agricultural Commission has approved three resolutions passed by its Animal Industry Subcommission at meetings held in Mexico City late in January.

The Subcommission met under the joint chairmanship of Dr. S. O. Fladness, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Sr. Oscar Flores, Subsecretary for Livestock of the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture. This Subcommission consists of three representatives of each country, including the chairmen.

The three resolutions are as follows:

RESOLUTION I

WHEREAS:

The Animal Industry Subcommission of the Mexican-United States Agricultural Commission recognizes the existence of foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico as reported to it by a joint Mexican-United States veterinary investigating committee.

WHEREAS:

The disease has already become so widespread as to constitute a grave danger to the livestock industries of Mexico, the United States and other countries, thus rendering the facilities of Mexico alone insufficient to successfully cope with this disease which constitutes an international problem.

The Animal Industry Subcommission, therefore,

RECOMMENDS:

Immediate and adequate scientific, technical, and financial cooperation between the Governments of Mexico and the United States in all measures looking toward the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico.

Mexico, D. F. - January 25, 1947

RESOLUTION II

WHEREAS:

The Animal Industry Subcommission of the Mexican-United States Agricultural Commission considers that the most urgent and immediate need in the foot-and-mouth disease situation in Mexico is the establishment and maintenance of an extremely rigid quarantine around the area where the disease presently exists, pending application of further control and eradication measures, and

WHEREAS:

Much additional equipment and technical personnel are absolutely essential in the establishment and maintenance of such a quarantine, the Animal Industry Subcommission of the Mexican-United States Agricultural Commission

RECOMMENDS:

That the Government of the United States, as an initial measure of cooperation in the joint campaign for control and eradication of this disease, secure and dispatch to Mexico at the earliest moment, such essential equipment as well as personnel as may be needed.

Mexico, D. F.- January 27, 1947

RESOLUTION III

CONSIDERING:

That foot-and-mouth disease has already been existent in Mexico for an approximate period of three months.

That the disease has invaded at least eight states, comprising an area vast in extent - designated as zone I, approximately 250 kilometers from north to south and 500 kilometers from west to east.

That the comparatively low mortality from the disease and the present existence of a large number of recovered animals have caused public interest to relax, thus rendering most necessary a carefully studied program of public education and propaganda, not only among the people of the affected area, but also in the remainder of the Republic.

That the population of zone I is almost six million people which represents a little less than one-third of the people in the nation, and that there are estimated to be at least one million affected or exposed susceptible domestic animals in zone I, including at least 650,000 cattle.

That any campaign for eradication of the disease can be expected to seriously upset the economy of this zone and affect that of the entire country.

That the costs involved in any control and eradication campaign must be expected to be enormous.

That extremely variable topographical and climatic conditions present definite obstacles to the ultimat success of a rapid campaign for eradication.

That there exist great limitations in readily available technical personnel, in equipment and materials, and finally,

That it will be necessary to carry out a radical destruction of all wild ruminants and wild swine in the zone, which of itself constitutes a formidable undertaking.

The Animal Industry Subcommission of the Mexican and United States Agricultural Commission

RECOMMENDS:

1. The utmost control to prevent the movement of susceptible animals and dangerous products out of zone I and to prevent the movement of any such animals into zone I, except for immediate slaughter.

2. A methodical disposal of all susceptible animals in newly infected and directly exposed herds of flocks by immediate destruction on the premises, followed by thorough disinfection of the latter, and an orderly movement, to local slaughter houses within the zone, of animals in herds not yet affected or entirely recovered and which are apparently healthy.

3. The immediate destruction of all wild ruminants and wild swine in this zone and such adjacent areas as may be necessary.

4. That steps be taken immediately to establish at the earlist possible time a joint Mexican-United States foot-and-mouth disease research organization, providing within the affected zone the necessary buildings, equipment, funds, and personnel.

5. That whenever foot-and-mouth disease appears outside the presently affected area, designated zone I, the method of immediate destruction of susceptible animals in affected or directly exposed herds or flocks, as well as wild ruminants and wild swine, that may be exposed, followed by the thorough disinfection of the premises involved, be adopted and applied in all instances.

The Mexican and United States Governments have exchanged diplomatic notes accepting the first resolution.

Congressional Authority Requested

To seek Congressional authority to act against foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico, Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson today (February 7) asked Congress for legislation to enable the U. S. Department of Agriculture to cooperate with any other American country in the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease or rinderpest.

In asking for additional legislation to cope with the Mexican emergency, Secretary Anderson pointed out that Congress has long recognized the serious nature of foot-and-mouth disease by its action to prohibit the importation of cattle, sheep, other domestic ruminants, and swine and specified livestock products from countries where the disease is present. The Secretary stated, also, that in the past Congress has authorized special

funds with which to complete successful eradication measures in this country during former foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks. However, no authority now exists to enable the United States to participate in livestock disease control in a foreign country, even when requested to do so by the foreign government concerned.

New Center of Infection

A new center of infection has been reported in the region of Salvatierra located near the southern border of the State of Guanajuato.

It is reported that the incidence of infection in the State of Aguascalientes consisted of a comparatively small number of animals which have been slaughtered and the carcasses disposed of by burning or burial. The previous spread of the disease into the States of Guerrero and Oaxaca is further reported to have involved only a few small herds located in the northern areas of those states.